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Respectfully submitted,



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CA_MAIN 48995 v 1

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A scanning optical apparatus comprising:

a light source [cable] capable of being modulated;

a deflecting element for deflecting and scanning a beam emitted from said
light source;

a scanning optical element for imaging said deflected beam into a spot shape
on a scanned surface; and

an optical element for synchronous detection for directing the deflected
beam from said deflecting element to a sensor to take the timing of image writing
beginning, wherein an optical axis of said optical element for synchronous detection is
coincident with a principal ray of the deflected beam from said deflecting element for
taking the timing of image writing beginning; and

[characterized by the provision of:]

scanning position detecting means for [making the optical axis of said
optical element for synchronous detection and the principal ray of the beam from the
deflecting element for taking the timing of image writing beginning coincident with each
other, and] detecting the position of the [a] beam at a point having at least one image height
separate from the optical axis of said scanning optical element.

2. (Amended) A scanning optical apparatus according to Claim 1,

[characterized in that] wherein said optical element for synchronous detection is an

anamorphic lens.

3. (Amended) A scanning optical apparatus according to Claim 1,
[characterized in that] wherein said optical element for synchronous detection is made of a
plastic material.

4. (Amended) A scanning optical apparatus according to Claim 1,
[characterized in that] wherein said scanning optical element is made of a plastic material.

5. (Amended) A scanning optical apparatus according to Claim 1,
[characterized in that] wherein said optical element for synchronous detection and said
scanning optical element are integrally molded by plastic injection molding.

6. (Amended) A scanning optical apparatus according to Claim 1, further
comprising a second optical element for converting a light beam into a linear image
elongated in a main scanning direction, [characterized in that] wherein said optical element
for synchronous detection and said second optical element are integrally molded by plastic
injection molding.

7. (Amended) A scanning optical apparatus according to Claim 1,
[characterized in that] wherein said scanning optical element is comprised of a refracting
optical element and a diffracting optical element.

8. (Amended) A scanning optical apparatus according to Claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein said scanning optical element effects [the] correction control of correcting a scanning magnification in conformity with the output of [the] said scanning position detecting means.

9. (Amended) A color image forming apparatus for scanning a beam from at least one scanning optical apparatus on a plurality of image bearing members to thereby form a color image, said scanning optical apparatus comprising:

a light source;

a deflecting element for deflecting and scanning a beam emitted from said light source;

a scanning optical element for imaging said deflected beam into a spot shape on the scanned surfaces of said image bearing members; [and]

an optical element for synchronous detection for directing the deflected beam from said deflecting element to a sensor to take the timing of image writing beginning, wherein an optical axis of said optical element for synchronous detection is coincident with a principal ray of the deflected beam from said deflecting element for taking the timing of image writing beginning; and

[characterized in that] registration detecting means for [making the optical axis of said optical element for synchronous detection and the principal ray of the beam from said deflecting element coincident with each other, and] detecting [the] a positional deviation of a marking of a predetermined shape formed on each of said image bearing

members by each scanning optical apparatus is provided at a position corresponding to an image height separate from the optical axis of said scanning optical element.

10. (Amended) A color image forming apparatus according to Claim 9, [characterized in that] wherein said registration detecting means is disposed so as to be capable of detecting a plurality of image heights substantially symmetrical with respect to the optical axis of said scanning optical element.

11. (Amended) A color image forming apparatus according to Claim 9, [characterized by the provision of] further comprising correcting means for reducing absolute registration deviation in each scanning optical apparatus or registration deviation relative to the scanning optical apparatus providing the reference, in conformity with the output of said registration detecting means.

12. (Amended) A color image forming apparatus according to Claim 9, [characterized in that] wherein said registration detecting means is disposed so as to be capable of detecting two image heights substantially symmetrical with respect to the optical axis of said scanning optical element, and effects [the] correction control of correcting the timing of image writing beginning by an amount corresponding to

$$\Delta A = K \times (\Delta 1 + \Delta 2)/2,$$

where $\Delta 1$ is the amount of registration deviation at a first image height, $\Delta 2$ is the amount of registration deviation at a second image height, and K is a constant.

13. (Amended) A color image forming apparatus according to Claim 9, [characterized in that] wherein said registration detecting means is disposed so as to be capable of detecting two image heights substantially symmetrical with respect to the optical axis of said scanning optical element, and effects [the] correction control of correcting the scanning magnification by an amount corresponding to

$$\Delta A' = K' \times (\Delta 1 - \Delta 2)/2,$$

where $\Delta 1$ is the amount of registration deviation at a first image height, $\Delta 2$ is the amount of registration deviation at a second image height, and K' is a constant.

14. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

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